

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. RO4366US (NORT10-00063)
U.S. SERIAL NO. 09/220,955
PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 13, 14, 16, 18 and 20 have been rejected.

Claims 2, 3, 6-12, 15, 17 and 19 have been objected to.

Claims 1-7, 9-10 and 13-20 have been cancelled, without prejudice.

Claims 8, 11 and 12 have been amended.

New Claims 21-29 have been added.

I. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4, 5, 13, 16, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Callon (US 5,699,347). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have cancelled, without prejudice, Claims 1, 4, 5, 13, 16, 18 and 20.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the § 102(b) rejection.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Callon (US 5,699,347) in view of Huang, et al. (US 6,301,244 B1). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have cancelled, without prejudice, Claim 14.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103 rejection.

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III. OBJECTION TO CLAIMS 2, 3, 6-12, 15, 17 and 19

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 2, 3, 6-12, 15, 17 and 19 are allowable. Applicants have added new independent Claims 21-29 that correspond to previously allowed dependent Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, 17 and 19, respectively. Dependent Claims 8, 11 and 12 have been amended, accordingly, to depend from the new independent Claims 22, 23 and 24, respectively.

Therefore, Claims 21-29, 8, 11 and 12 are now in proper format for issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

IV. CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, the Applicants assert that the remaining Claims in the Application are in now in condition for allowance, and respectfully request allowance of such Claims.

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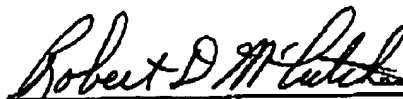
If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at rmccutcheon@davismunck.com.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Davis Munck Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIS MUNCK, P.C.

Date: 2/18/2003



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